

Source Water Protection for Water Quality and Quantity

FY 2022 EQIP-CIC High Priority Area

1/18/2022



Description

This High Priority Area (HPA) is for focusing on improving drinking water quality and quantity by applying conservation on agricultural lands within targeted watersheds. Participants who install conservation practices to address sediment and nutrient loading, soil health, and water quality issues improve their operation both environmentally and economically, but more importantly provide a tremendous benefit to their local communities. As stated by the American Water Works Association, protecting sources of drinking water is an effective way to reduce risks to public health, instill customer confidence, and control water treatment costs.

The conservation practices available within this HPA will address resource concerns such as nonpoint nutrient loss to both surface runoff and leaching, sedimentation from erosion, surface and ground water depletion, inefficient irrigation water use, soil aggregate instability and compaction, and soil organism habitat loss or degradation. By addressing these resource concerns, cleaner water will reach both surface and ground water sources.

Geography

Source Water Protection Priority Watersheds Map

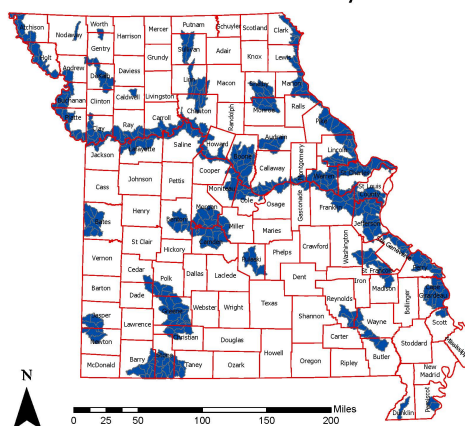
Land Uses

1. Cropland
2. Pasture

Priority Resource Concerns

1. Field sediment, nutrient & pathogen loss
2. Soil quality limitations
3. Source water depletion

Source Water Protection Priority Areas



What is EQIP-CIC?

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program Conservation Incentive Contract (EQIP-CIC) allows producers to target priority resource concerns on their property by offering annual incentive payments for key practices. These identified practices, along with supporting practices, address the implementation, adoption, management, and maintenance needed for producers to build on their current level of conservation and see the benefits of longer-term conservation.

EQIP-CIC can be a stepping-stone between the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). EQIP-CIC offers a unique opportunity for a 5 year contract with an annual payment, without enrolling the entire operation into the program. The flexibility can be a gateway to future participation in CSP enrollment and achievement of a higher level of conservation stewardship on their entire operation.

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Available Practices

The following conservation practices are available to support addressing the priority resource concern(s) for this EQIP-CIC High Priority Area.

Conservation Practices

Conservation Evaluation Monitoring Activity (CEMA)

216 - Soil Health Testing

217 - Soil and Source Testing for Nutrient Management

Primary

328 - Conservation Crop Rotation

329 - Residue and Tillage Management, No Till

340 - Cover Crop

345 - Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till

449 - Irrigation Water Management

511 - Forage Harvest Management

528 - Prescribed Grazing

554 - Drainage Water Management

590 - Nutrient Management

Supporting

327 - Conservation Cover

330 - Contour Farming

332 - Contour Buffer Strips

342 - Critical Area Planting (in conjunction with 378)

351 - Well Decommissioning

378 - Pond

380 - Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation

381 - Silvopasture

382 - Fence

390 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover

391 - Riparian Forest Buffer

393 - Filter Strip

430 - Irrigation Pipeline

441 - Irrigation System, Microirrigation

442 - Sprinkler System

443 - Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface

464 - Irrigation Land Leveling

472 - Access Control

484 - Mulching

490 - Tree/Shrub Site Preparation

512 - Pasture and Hay Planting

516 - Livestock Pipeline

533 - Pumping Plant

561 - Heavy Use Area Protection

574 - Spring Development

578 - Stream Crossing

587 - Structure for Water Control

604 - Saturated Buffer

612 - Tree/Shrub Establishment

614 - Watering Facility

620 - Underground Outlet

638 - Water and Sediment Control Basin

642 - Water Well

657 - Wetland Restoration

658 - Wetland Creation

Who is eligible?

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own or rent agricultural land are eligible. EQIP-CIC assistance can be used on all types of agricultural operations, including:

- Conventional
- Organic
- Specialty crops
- Commodity crops
- Forestry
- Wildlife
- Livestock operations
- Historically underserved farmers*

Increased and advance payments available for historically underserved producers (beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and military veterans).

How to Apply

Apply at your local USDA Service Center, which you can find at farmers.gov/service-locator.

More Information

For more information, visit nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/.



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